

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 04185 262111Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 SCA-01 PPTE-00 H-02 CG-00 DOTE-00

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R 262033Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4866

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4185

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: GROUNDED YACHT "AWARE"

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 3868 AND 3975

1. ON SEPTEMBER 18 DEFENSE ATTACHE TOGETHER WITH FBI SPECIAL AGENT RICHARD GILLETTE VISITED SITE NORTH OF LUPERON WHERE YACHT AWARE HAD GONE AGROUND SEPTEMBER 1. HURRICANE ELOISE HAD PASSED OVER AREA ON SEPTEMBER 17. DURING NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 16/17 HIGH WINDS AND HEAVY SEAS ASSOCIATED WITH ELOISE WASHED AWARE AGAINST SEA NCIFF COMPLETELY DESTROYING THE CRAFT. PARTS WERE SPREAD FOR ABOUT 2/4 MILE EAST OF ORIGINAL WRECK. VARIOUS PARTS WERE OBSERVED BEING SALVAGED BY LOCAL CITIZENS.

2. FOLLOWING BRIEF SCENARIO OF SEPTEMBER 1 HAPPENINGS BASED ON DATT/FBI INTERVIEWS OF EYE WITNESSES TO SHIPWRECK OF SAILING YACHT AWARE. AT ABOUT 010710Q SEPT AWARE WAS SIGHTED BY DOMINICAN AIR FORCE (DAF) AIRCRAFT (AT-6) SEVERAL MILES NORTH OF LUPERON ON A GENERAL SOUTHERLY COURSE. BOOM WAS COMPLETE BUT SWINGING, MAINSAIL WAS UP BUT TORN. NO PERSON WAS OBSERVED ABOARD THE CRAFT. DAF AIRCRAFT REMAINED ON SCENE UNTIL ABOUT 010830Q WHEN THE BOAT WAS ABOUT ONE MILE OFF SHORE. AIRCRAFT KEPT FISHING BOATS AWAY FROM DERELICT. HIGHER HEADQUARTER WAS NOTIFIED BY PILOT. AT ABOUT 010845 DAF OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT (T-41) ARRIVED ON SCENE. NO PERSON OBSERVED ABOARD. CARFT ALSO MAINTAINED UNDER OBSERVATION BY LOCAL FISHERMEN WHO NOTIFIED POLICE AND ARMY DETACHMENTS IN LUPERON. POLICE/ARMY ELEMENTS MAINTAINED CRAFT UNDER CONSTANT OBSERVATION

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PAGE 02 SANTO 04185 262111Z

BEGINNING AT ABOUT 010900Q. AWARE COMMENCED TO CRASH AGAINST OFF-

SHORE REEF SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND WAS FIRMLY AGROUND 1 1/2 MILES NORTH OF LUPERON AT 0109300Q. ALL WITNESSES REPORT THAT MAINSAIL WAS UP BUT TORN, THE MAIN SHEET WAS STREAMING AND THAT BOOM WAS UNDamaged.

3. DOMINICAN COASTAL PATROL BOAT BELLATRIX (GC-104) ARRIVED ON SCENE AT 011050Q. BOARDING PARTY PLACED ANCHOR TO MAINTAIN BOW SEAWARD.

4. NO ITEMS WERE REMOVED FROM CRAFT UNTIL ARRIVAL OF COMMANDER NORTHERN NAVAL ZONE WHO NOTED THAT RADIO, BATTERIES, PERSONAL CLOTHING, AND OTHER ITEMS OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT WERE MISSING FROM THE YACHT.

5. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO NOTIFY MR. JAMES NESBITT, FATHER OF THE MISSING OWNER OF THE AWARE, THAT THE YACHT IS DESTROYED AND A TOTAL LOSS. MR. NESBITT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (207) 946-5478 GREENE, MAINE. THE EMBASSY PLANS NO FURTHER INVESTIGATIVE OR OTHER ACTION IN THIS CASE UNLESS REQUESTED TO DO SO BY THE DEPARTMENT.
HURWITCH

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